

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCA-01 SY-05 OPR-02 L-03 CPR-01

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R 221400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3206

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0557

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LY

SUBJECT: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON DIPLOMATS IN LIBYA

REF: TRIPOLI 522

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF CIRCULAR NOTE REFERRED TO IN REFTTEL, A FEW DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HAVE NOW HAD SOME EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH PROTOCOL RE TRAVEL OF THEIR STAFF. ALSO, VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC STAFF INCLUDING EMBOFF HAVE HAD INDEPENDENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MFA PROTOCOL STAFF IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SOME GUIDELINES TO THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS AT THE MOMENT TO BE A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE AT PROTOCOL ABOUT THE REQUEST FOR PERMISSION, THE REQUIREMENT FOR REQUESTING PERMISSION MUST STILL BE MET. IT HAS BEEN INDICATED THAT VERBAL PERMISSION WILL BE GIVEN BY THE MFA, ESPECIALLY FOR TRAVEL VIA ROAD THROUGH LIBYA TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND TRAVEL TO VARIOUS PROJECTS SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM TRIPOLI EITHER BY ROAD OR AIR.

3. TRIPS TO NEARBY PLACES OF INTEREST, INCLUDING BEACHES LOCATED OUTSIDE TRIPOLI MUNICIPALITY SHOULD NOT BE MADE UNLESS MFA IS QUOTE NOTIFIED IN WRITING AT LEAST ONE DAY IN ADVANCE UNQUOTE. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, DOES NOT EXPECT TO OBTAIN EVEN VERBAL PERMISSION FOR THESE

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TRIPS.

4. TRIPOLI'S MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY HAS BEEN DEFINED VERBALLY TO BRITISH DIPLOMAT AS 13 KILOMETERS TO THE WEST, 21 KILOMETERS TO THE EAST AND 20 KILOMETERS TO THE SOUTH (AIRPORT). BRITISH DIPLOMAT FURTHER INDICATED THAT PROTOCOL WAS SEEMINGLY UNCLEAR OVER WHAT GUIDELINES MIGHT BE ISSUED AND THAT PROTOCOL HAD TO REFER TO HIGHER AUTHORITY BEFORE A CLARIFYING NOTE COULD BE SENT TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS NOTE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

5. EMBASSY PLANS TO SUBMIT NOTES REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR STAFF TRAVEL AS OCCASION ARISES BUT DOES NOT EXPECT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPLY. WILL ADVISE ON FURTHER GUIDELINES AS RECEIVED, ESPECIALLY THE CLARIFYING NOTE.
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Message Attributes

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